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SUNDAY, JULY 20, 1913.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

Once upon a time a President of
the United States fought a money
trust.He fought it with the grim ferocity
of an old warrior. He denounced it
in bitter and scathing words. He
removed Cabinet officers who would
not do his bidding and appointed those
who would lend to his insidious will.
The climax came when, after a spec-
tacular fight in which men like Cal-
houn and Webster and Clay joined
together, the Senate dramatically adopt-
ed a resolution of censure against him.

The President was Andrew Jackson,

and the money trust, which he finally

vanquished, was known as the Bank of

the United States.

Jackson was a Democrat of Demo-

crats. He was a man of the people,

rugged and honest, even if over-esti-

mate. He has been the patron saint of

the Democratic party, along with Jef-

ferson, for more than seventy years.

Today, when the leaders of his party

are engaged in framing currency legis-

lation, it is worth while to glance along

the pathway they are treading. No-

body agrees, of course, that Andrew

Jackson was the epitome of all finan-

cial wisdom. More than this, times

change and men change with them. At

the same time, there are parallels and

differences concerning the money trust

of Jackson's time and the money trust

today which are worth noting. It is

also a matter of some importance to

consider the relation of currency legis-

lation to politics. There is a very inti-

mate relation, in fact. In the first

place, it is openly admitted by the ad-

ministration that new currency laws

are needed to counteract the possible

disturbance of business by the enact-

ment of reduced tariff schedules. In

addition to this, the entire financial in-

terests of the country—and they are

tremendously powerful—may be won

over or they may be politically estr-

anged by the character of the cur-

rency legislation now before Congress.

Why Jackson Fought the Bank.

The Bank of the United States en-
joyed unusual privileges. It could is-
sue bills of exchange or notes which
were receivable for any and all pay-
ments due the United States, and were
thus a legal tender, and it was made
the depository of government funds.
During the life of its charter no other
bank was to be incorporated by Con-
gress. Thus it was a monopoly, en-
joying advantages which no other in-
stitution possessed, and for which it
agreed to pay the government the sum
of \$1,000,000 a year.In this bank was concentrated the
money power of the country a century
ago. Its capital was \$35,000,000, an
enormous amount for that period, but
a mere bagatelle as compared with
present-day operations. Was its great
power exercised wisely and patrioti-
cally or selfishly and corruptly? Jack-
son held the latter view. Thus be-
lieving, he sought to overthrow it. He
said that it had been established by
unquestionable proof that the bank had
been converted into a great electioneer-ing machine and he wanted to know if
the money and power of a great cor-
poration should be exerted to influence
and control the judgment of the people.
He charged, also, that it had corrupted
the press. His most serious charge,
however, was that it exercised despotic
sway over the other banks of the coun-
try and that it possessed the power to
make money plentiful or scarce at its
own pleasure. It concentrated, he said,
the whole money power of the Union,
with its boundless means of corrup-
tion and its numerous dependents, and
this concentration made it a formid-
able agent for the exploitation of pri-
vate greed. Senator Benton, who was
Jackson's spokesman in the Senate, de-
nounced the bank as an institution too
powerful to be tolerated in our gov-
ernment.There seems to be no doubt now
that this concentration of the money
power did exist. History has, in the
main, justified Jackson's veto of the
bill rechartering the bank and his fur-
ther effort to hopelessly cripple it by
withdrawing the government deposits and
placing them in State banks. Yet the
public moneys in the Bank of the
United States amounted to only \$26,-
000,000, while the proposed Federal re-
serve banks are to have the custody of\$1,000,000,000. The capital of the Bank
of the United States, only \$35,000,000,
was regarded as dangerous. The
proposition of the present day pro-
poses a capitalization of \$200,000,000, a
sum greater than the capitalization of
the banks of England, France, and
Germany combined.

Banks as a Political Factor.

The demand for new currency legis-
lation, originating with the great finan-
cial interests and persistently urged
upon Democratic as well as Republican
administrations, seems likely soon to be
gratified. It is strange that the pivot
upon which it rests is the relation of
money to politics which Jackson de-
nounced.It is proposed in the scheme now be-
fore Congress to place the monetary
institutions of the country under the
control of a board of seven persons,
two of whom are to be members of
the Cabinet, another to be the Com-
ptroller of the Currency, and the other
four appointed by the President, but
only one of the four required to be
experienced in banking. A board thus
selected must be partisan. The great
objection on the part of the Demo-
crats to a tariff commission was that a
commission appointed by a Republican
President could not be nonpartisan.If this be true of a tariff board, and
many people think that it is true, it
must also apply to the Federal reserve
board. Should the power to thus ter-
minate who shall control the banks be
given to any President? Andrew Jack-
son answered the question in vigorous
language. "To give the President," he
said, "the control over the currency
and the power over individuals now
possessed by the Bank of the United
States, even with the material difference
that he is responsible to the people,
would be as objectionable and dan-
gerous as to leave it where it is."

Enormous Power Given to Politicians.

If concentrated money power is
dangerous, the menace must arise out
of the possible corrupting influence
which it may exercise. Jackson said
that the Bank of the United States
corruptly influenced elections. The
proposition now before Congress makes
it possible to concentrate banking re-
sources aggregating \$25,000,000,000
within the control of seven men to be
chosen by a political head.And the power of these men is to
be absolute. They are to control each
of the boards of directors of the
twelve Federal reserve banks, as well
as the books of these banks. They are
to control the redisscussing of these
banks, the power of suspension, the
issue and retirement of treasury notes,
the power to classify the banks and the
officials and assets of the reserve banks.
It can suspend a Federal reserve bank
and appoint a receiver. It can con-
trol the issue of \$200,000,000 of Fed-
eral reserve bank notes. In brief, these
seven men hold within their hands the
verdict of life or death for the institu-
tions which are to be created as well
as the distribution of hundreds of mil-
lions. It is an enormous power, and
heaven help the country if it be not
wisely and honestly exercised.There is no telling what might hap-
pen if an unscrupulous and ambitious
man should happen to occupy the
White House and should plan to ma-
nipulate the financial situation for his
own personal ends. Look again at the
Jackson parallel. He fought the Bank
of the United States because he felt
that it endangered the liberties of the
people. He saw that the vital blow
could be struck by withdrawing the
government deposits. In order to ac-
complish this result, however, he was
compelled to transfer to another post
a Secretary of the Treasury who would
not do his bidding. Then when the
new Secretary declined to act, owing to
constitutional scruples, he removed
him to make way for Roger B. Taney,
who did what Jackson told him to do.
With another Jackson in the White
House the Federal reserve board might
easily be made subservient to the wish
of the Executive, even though that
Executive might not be actuated by the
lively purpose which inspired Jackson's
mind.

The Serious Problem Involved.

If currency legislation is to result in
public good it must provide that there
shall be no concentration of the money
power, and it also fought to keep the
banks divorced from politics. There
is still some question whether or not
the proposed legislation does not give
to the banks certain advantages for
which they have been struggling and
which they are most anxious to pos-
sess. There is no doubt, however, that
the proposed relations between banks
and politicians are entirely too close.The position taken by Jackson in
1833 applies with especial force to the
present day, when concentrated wealth
has a power and influence undreamed
of in the day of the grim old warrior.
Everybody knows how the banks in the
great financial centers can reach out
through a million channels and affect
the monetary and commercial interests
of the smallest towns. Place the for-
tunes of these banks in the hands of
seven political appointees sitting in
Washington and a condition of affairs
is created which it is difficult to con-
template with serenity. This fact must
certainly dawn upon Congress as con-
sideration of the measure proceeds, and
must force the conclusion that if there
must be a Federal reserve board, there
ought to be safeguards and restrictions
imposed upon it far more definite than
now are provided. The dangerous con-ditions which existed in Andrew Jack-
son's day can easily be repeated. The
chapter in history in which he was the
central figure is too full of significance
to the present day to be ignored. The
evils against which he protested—the
legalized concentration of wealth and
the active participation of that wealth
in political affairs—ought not to be
made possible in this day and genera-
tion. These are the things which
above all others, must be avoided if we
are to have better government, a wider
distribution of human happiness, and a
decrease of discontent.

Fit to Cope with the Situation.

The provinces of South China have
formed a coalition against the pres-
ent administration of the new Repub-
lic. Count Yamazaki, the new Japanese
minister to China, the cable reports,
has ventured to criticize the govern-
ment to which he is accredited, an
indiscretion similar to the one which
not so long ago led to the recall of
one of our own Ministers, even be-
fore he had reached his destination.
We learn that the Japanese have sent
their officers to aid the armies of the
rebels, and that Japanese gunboats are
in Chinese rivers awaiting an oppor-
tunity to be of service in the cause of
sedition.We are not at all surprised at this
news, and the confidence expressed by
our administration to the contrary, we
are convinced that the identical thing
would happen in Mexico, unless we
show a firm hand, or, perhaps, even
"the mailed fist." Can the Monroe doc-
trine hinder any of the Latin-Ameri-
can countries from forming an alli-
ance of friendship with any nation
they choose, and has not Japan its
lynx eyes glued upon the Mexican sit-
uation with thousands of its ex-col-
onizers colonized on the Pacific side of
that country?At this juncture it is pleasing to
note the administration's choice of
Prof. Paul S. Reineck, of the Univer-
sity of Wisconsin, as our Minister to
China. He knows both countries well,
and his book, "Intellectual and Politi-
cal Currents in the Far East," has
been translated into Japanese and
Chinese. He maintains that in order
to solve the issues there pending, a
sympathetic, mutual understanding be-
tween different races, or civilizations
even, is indispensable.Incidentally, when in this country
appointments for merit alone come to
be the rule the efficiency of our
foreign service will be greatly im-
proved.

Once More the Armor Plate Question.

Secretary Daniels' idea that the gov-
ernment should make its own armor
plate has been before the public time
and again, before Mr. Daniels was ever
thought of as chief of our navy, espe-
cially after some unpleasant discov-
eries of an inferior product or ex-
ceptionally high prices. Economy is
the main argument for it. In 1909
the government paid \$345 a ton for
armor plate. Now it pays \$454. The
Bethlehem, Carnegie, and Midvale
shops get all the business—and, of
course, all the profit—for if ever they
agree to raise the price, Uncle Sam
must pay.Navy Department experts have de-
cided and reported that the govern-
ment could erect an armor plate plant,
producing 10,000 tons a year, for about
\$8,500,000, where armor plate could be
made for \$314 a ton, with the likeli-
hood of a reduction in the cost as
soon as the plant would be in full
running order. This, to begin with,
would be a saving of \$140 a ton. On
a year's output the government would
save \$1,400,000, and, deducting 4 per
cent for the use of the money needed
to build the plant, there would remain
a net saving of about \$1,000,000 a year.This is worth while saving. We
have government ship yards that
have turned out first-class battleships.
We also have some fine powder
plants. We are confronted in this in-
stance with the double question of
economy and quality. When, some
years ago, the armor plate scandal de-
veloped, the plates were found to be
full of blow holes. It is unfortunate
that this country should be forced to
go into the armor plate-making busi-
ness. More peaceful pursuits were
far more preferable. But since it is
unavoidable, why not try to make the
very best at the least cost?Close observers say there are some
political plums that won't ripen until
fall—or at any rate until after the tariff
bill is passed.There was a time when people objected
to even the peek-a-boo waist.Col. Mulhall says he found conditions
in Baltimore very bad, and Baltimore
doesn't know whether to take it as a
compliment or not.And, in the meantime, what are we go-
ing to do about the equal tolls?Let us all hope that President Wilson
has said nothing stronger than "Idi, tut,"
during the past week.Anyhow, the Bryan lecture episode
caused people to talk talking about the
Carnett case.The framers of the Constitution never
dreamed that the time would come when
the Japs would undertake to construe
that noble instrument.The cost of living is coming down in
spots. A seat on the New York stock
exchange sold the other day for only
\$27.00.Court Gossip of Interesting
Events on Two Continents

(Copyright, 1913, by A. D. Jacobson.)

M. Polocare is the third French Presi-
dent who has paid a state visit to Eng-
land, and before the third republic came
to its only end, a French monarch
paid Britain the same compliment. The
first King of France, who came on a
visit to a sovereign of England was Louis
Philippe, the "Citizen King," who, in or-
der to return Queen Victoria's call to
Paris in the previous year (1848) visited
Windsor and was honored with the Gar-
ter.The same honor was accorded to Na-
poleon III. who visited London dur-
ing the Crimean war and received a re-
turn visit from Queen Victoria and
Prince Albert at Paris some months later.
The Queen's visit to Louis Philippe in
1842 was the first incident of the kind
since 1848, when Henry VIII. crossed the
channel to meet Francis I. at the Field
of the Cloth of Gold.The present monarch heard the "Mar-
cellaise" many times during his brief
visit in England, and it is to be hoped
that he bore the repetition with more
equanimity than was displayed by the
British monarchs of the same name. When
in 1893 Naar-ed-Din made a tour of the English provinces, all the
principal town bands played the Persian
national anthem in his honor. On de-
parting from Manchester he sent a mes-
senger in advance to the station, re-
questing the officer commanding guard
of honor to suppress that particular air.
"The Shah had heard it so many times
in England," said the officer, "that I
thought it would be better to suppress
it altogether." The Shah's visit to En-
gland was a most successful one, and
the effects might be anticipated from
any further repetition of it.The visit of M. Polocare added an-
other link to the chain of Anglo-
French amity. It is becoming difficult
for the people of either France or
Great Britain to realize that barely a
decade ago they were separated by a
seemingly insuperable antagonism. Few
things change more rapidly or more
completely than the face of interna-
tional politics, and the revolution
which came upon the scene of the Anglo-
French relations not only illustrates
that useful and often overlooked truth,
but affords good ground for hop-
ing that other misunderstandings
which appear to be equally intractable
likewise will yield to the influence of
time and reason.The Anglo-French agreement of 1904
was one of the union of three dif-
ferent tendencies. One tendency was
the reaction in Great Britain against the
philogermanism of the late Lord Bal-
four's foreign policy; another, the
desire of France to simplify and
ordinate her foreign policy; and the
third, a sudden weariness and dis-
gust among the French and British peoples
with the scoundrels and recriminations
of Fashoda, the Dreyfus case, and the
Boer war.Great Britain's policy during the last
two decades of the nineteenth century
was, roughly speaking, no policy at
all. Between the Dual and the Triple
Alliances she wavered, and finally, with
an inclination of sentiment
toward the latter. There seemed a
chance at one time that England's
weight would be definitely thrown on
the side of the Dual Alliance, but
need not now detail the various inci-
dents and influences that gradually
changed the popular and official atti-
tude of England toward Germany. It
is enough to state the fact that by
the time the Boer war ended a very
decided change had taken place, and
that Anglo-French relations began au-
tomatically to improve, when the an-
tagonism of France toward Great Britain
should be found arrayed against her
were allayed.At the same time—movement toward
an Anglo-French rapprochement began
to declare itself in Paris. M. Delcasse,
who had been in charge of the French
foreign affairs since 1898, based his policy
on the conviction that France could not
afford two first-class hatreds. She could
not be at one and the same time anti-
German and anti-British. She could not
simultaneously oppose the strongest mil-
itary power and the strongest naval power
in the world.It became necessary to make a choice.
M. Delcasse decided that a haphazard
and provocative colonial policy which
brought England to France face to face

THE OPEN FORUM

Hands off.

To the Editor: The characterization, by
the Philadelphia Press, of the adminis-
tration's attitude to Mexico as "poli-
troonery" is deplorable. It looks like an
attempt to inject party politics into in-
ternational relations. A grave condition,
bordering upon a crisis, is at hand. There
is a time when silence is golden, even with
editors of the public press, and never more
so than now in their relation to the gen-
eral welfare of the nation in its stand
against the world in the Mexican matter.
Europe is making demands upon Ameri-
ca in Mexican matters.
Great Britain's premier admits that all
Europe cannot halt the Balkan war, and
asserts that the struggle will end by a
process of mutual exhaustion. In the
face of such a situation, Europe's pow-
ers in European affairs, is it not folly
for Europe to meddle in American af-
fairs? Europe's hand in Mexico is Euro-
pean intrigue to force the United States
to stand responsible to Europe for her
loan of millions to Mexico in the face
of America's warning. America's an-
swer to Europe is: Hands off.The administration's attitude toward
Mexico is deplorable. America sees in
Huerta, the assassin of Madero and de-
stroyer of constituted authority, and a
usurper at the head of the de facto gov-
ernment of a limited sphere, and in-
stead of opposing him, she is giving con-
tinuance to the American government
forbidding American traffic with the
Mexican revolutionists in munitions of
war. Huerta is in his place today. Mado-
ro stands responsible to Europe for her
loan of millions to Mexico in the face
of America's warning. America's an-
swer to Europe is: Hands off.Close observers say there are some
political plums that won't ripen until
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to even the peek-a-boo waist.Col. Mulhall says he found conditions
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ing to do about the equal tolls?Let us all hope that President Wilson
has said nothing stronger than "Idi, tut,"
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caused people to talk talking about the
Carnett case.The framers of the Constitution never
dreamed that the time would come when
the Japs would undertake to construe
that noble instrument.The cost of living is coming down in
spots. A seat on the New York stock
exchange sold the other day for only
\$27.00.at more than one petting point, was
risking more than the game and its
fortunes were worth. He therefore bent
all his efforts toward the recovery of
Great Britain from the list of France's possible
enemies. Two circumstances aided him.
One was that both the French and Brit-
ish peoples were weary of the war and
their destined peace. After the peace
of Versailles there was a period of
political and journalistic calm, and a
return to an atmosphere of tranquillity.
On both sides the channel, the
men began to look into the true reasons
of their disputes over Egypt and
Newfoundland and Madagascar, and
to see whether, after all, there was
any sense in them as they had been pre-
tending. It did not take the statesmen
very long to discover that political differ-
ences are rarely insuperable when tackled
in the right spirit.The other circumstance that prompted
reconciliation was the accession to the Brit-
ish Throne of a sovereign whom all
Frenchmen knew and liked and who
speedily made it his business to further
the gathering impulse toward confidence
and good will. There would have been
an entente between the two countries
even without King Edward. But with
him and with the invaluable aid of his
initiative and personality it was brought
not only to a speedier, but to a fuller
and firmer fruition.It was under such conditions that the
Anglo-French agreement of 1904, clearing
up a number of the colonial questions
and giving Great Britain, so far as
France was concerned, a free hand in
Egypt and France, so far as Great Brit-
ain was concerned, a free hand in Mo-
rocco, came to be negotiated. Its Brit-
ish authors looked upon it as an exclu-
sively Anglo-French compact, with no
element of any moment on the interests
of the rest of the world. They saw the
implications of any kind. Their purpose
in concluding it was to wipe the slate
clean of a variety of difficulties that had
long perturbed Anglo-French relations.
It was not aimed at the rest of the world,
and it certainly never occurred to any
one in Downing Street that it would put
a severe strain on the Anglo-French agree-
ment of 1904, and that it would be a
turning movement in the operations of
the British policy.Events, however, quickly expanded its
scope and gave to the new-born friend-
ship a European importance. Had the
period of the Anglo-French bickering
lasted into the Russo-Japanese war, the
two seconds to the duellists in the Far
East themselves might have become in-
volved in the struggle. The events be-
tween the French and British govern-
ments served to draw a ring around the
combustibles; it furnished a round table
at which both Great Britain and Russia
could have met and discussed the North
Sea incident, and its development,
under the impact of the war, brought
home to the consciousness of both nations
some perception of its far-reaching po-
tency.But it was Germany's discovery that
her interests had been ignored in the
Anglo-French agreement, followed by
the Kaiser's visit to Tangier and the
excitements of the Algerian conference
that first revealed the full range and ef-
fectiveness of the Anglo-French entente.
The suspicion on Germany's part that
Downing Street and the Quai d'Orsay
had joined together to hem her in; the
policy that she based on that suspicion,
the suspicion on the part of the French
and British governments that they were
being outwitted, brought the three
countries on at least two occasions with-
in measurable distance of war. In this
way the entente was caught in the mesh
of international rivalries, brought out
into a sort of informal compact of co-
operation between Great Britain and
France, and became invested with an
unlooked-for, but accepted, responsibility
for the European situation.Moreover, it contributed powerfully to
the formation of an Anglo-Russian un-
derstanding. For the last six years it
has been a matter of course that Ger-
many, on the one hand, and Great Britain
and France, on the other, have been
at odds. It is only recently that the
entirely unaggressive character of
the triple entente has been appreciated
in the Wilhelmstrasse. FLANER.the pivot of the control of the Caribbean
in the maintenance of the Monroe Doc-
trine.

Hands off all. ANDREW JORDAN GREEN.

July 13, 1913.

THE DOG'S ANCESTRY.

Indian Wolf Probably Progenitor
of Some Canines.Naturalists and the world at large seem
to generally accept the theory that the
domestic dog is, in some sense, a col-
lateral descendant of the wolf or jackal.
says Harper's Weekly. A professor in
the Natural History Museum of Paris
has communicated results of his study
of various canine skulls to the Academy
of Sciences. He appears to have noticed
certain peculiarities of growth which
have hitherto escaped zoologists.
He states that the skull of almost every
species of wolf and jackal differs from
that of the shepherd dog in the extent
that makes it impossible that this dog
should belong in the same classification.
The skull of the Indian wolf, on the con-
trary, shows some points of resemblance.
This, indeed, is the only savage canine,
the top of whose head projects like that
of our dog.There are, moreover, other characteris-
tics which the Indian wolf has in com-
mon with the dog, and which the ordi-
nary wolf does not share with them, al-
though his origin and that of the dog
have long been supposed to be a common
source.The conclusion of this scientist is that
the Indian wolf is the progenitor of the
shepherd dog and the bloodhound. There
were two primitive races of dogs
analogous to those which were first do-
mesticated in Central Asia, whence they
passed to Europe, and there seems no
reason to doubt that the bloodhound of
today is the direct descendant of the dog
spoken of by the ancients as "the dog of
the age of bronze."

Doctors and Tobacco.

From the Chicago Herald-Herald.
A doctor who attributes most of the
ills of mankind to tobacco declares that
the medical profession should go closely
into the use of the weed in all forms.This seems to imply that the profession
has neglected its duty in the pre-
mises and that is hardly fair. There are
no men who go more closely or enthu-
siastically into the use of tobacco than
doctors. They begin with impressive
moral earnestness as students of cigar-
ettes when they are getting their first
lessons in the practice of the profession,
and later become highly skilled in the
use of cigars and pipes. There are doc-
tors who would make a good showing
against the best lay experts in big black
cigars; there are others who have a
special liking for the Missouri meers-
chaum and consecrate themselves to it
in their moments of deep research until
they are rudely interrupted by selfish
patients.Let us give these earnest men their
due. Let's be thankful that we have
them in our midst or thereabouts to
teach us by their example.From Joke.
We are sometimes sharpened on dull
minds.

AN OLD QUESTION

"What is so rare as a day in June?"

A NEW ANSWER

A splendid variety of good lumber and millwork,
from which you can select anything you might want
and always at Fair Prices.Flooring, cheap grade.....\$2.00 per 100 ft.
Flooring, ordinary grade.....\$2.50 per 100 ft.
Flooring, fair grade.....\$3.00 per 100 ft.
Flooring, best grades Alabama and Georgia
Pine, from.....\$3.50 to \$5.50 per 100 ft.

The Frank Libbey Lumber Co.

6th Street and New York Avenue
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GETTING THE NEWS

By FRED C. KELLY

Frederick W. Steckman, a well-known
Washington correspondent, died to work
a little paper in his native town,
down in Missouri. While there he was
Steckman's good fortune to solve a mys-
tery that had the town agog for weeks
and weeks.The mystery was about nothing more
or less than the funny way the electric
lights carried on at night. They would
go out all of a sudden, without warning,
then on again, in a second off again, and
all such strange carrying on as that.Electric lights were still a novelty in
the little place, and everything they did
caused talk. The fluttering of the light
annoyed any one who happened to be
reading, and the light itself caused much
excitement. Steckman, who was a young
man, made the light do it. Citizens ap-
pealed to the manager of the light com-
pany, and